

June 22, 1970

May I have your name?

Gary
Jerry Brazil.

How old are you?

Twenty-six.

Where do you live, Jerry?

.....

Jerry, what are you doing here in the Maricopa County jail?

On a charge of narcotics, for sales -- heroin and marijuana.

What is the sentence that you are serving?

Five to fifteen on the possession of heroin; two to ten on the possession of marijuana -- for sales. Both of them are for sales.

Are they concurrent or consecutive sentences?

I believe they run together, I'm not sure.

Jerry, it has been reported that you have been an informer for federal narcotics officers and that you were scheduled to testify in a federal court in narcotics cases now pending. Is that correct?

Yes.

Can you tell me something about your assistance or your serving as an informer for federal narcotics officers? Tell me the whole story of that -- how it happened, how it started and what you have done for them and what you hope to do for them in the future?

I got picked up on a state charge here first and the federals already had an indictment against me on conspiracy and manufacturing of dangerous drugs, so they came and arrested me -- Mr. Art *Phuhr* and an assistant. And I was took downtown and Art *Phuhr* asked me -- my wife is pretty shook up about me getting arrested again -- and he asked me if I would go to work for him. He says there are two or three big suppliers that he wanted, he wanted to stop the flow of narcotics into Arizona. And he says if I did, I wouldn't go to jail. He says he would take care of my charges.

When was this?

*Phoenix top narcotics
pusher, w/ a direct line to
organized crime, remains at
large to peddle his cargo of
misery and death.
That's the status of
a man who has been in the
middle, a man called by federal
officers "the most important narcotics
informer in your area."
Gary *Phuhr* Brazil says
Brazil is the major narc
dist center for U.S.*

it was about a week before the banker got arrested -- the guy that brought the heroin in from the border.

.....?

Yeah, it was a week before that. So I told him I would. And he told me I couldn't get in no more trouble and I told him I would have to stay around these same people. I said, you can't expect me to work for you
..... and not people know it, and he says, yes, I realize this here, and if you should get into any trouble, just give me a call. I mean
was being honest with me. And told me to stay out of the heroin part. He realized that I couldn't stay away from the narcotics and work at the same time. And he says this don't give you no license to sell. So anyhow, I call Hector from Art office that day and told him to deliver me some narcotics -- heroin. So they delivered it to me -- they delivered the heroin to me
..... and Mr. Art picked him up.

Picked him up at the border?

No, picked him up here at a motel.

Here in Phoenix?

Yes -- in Phoenix. And then told me what kind of cases he wanted me to make. And Hector (Bureese). I can't spell or read or write.

He was arrested in a motel in Phoenix?

No, not Hector. The banker was -- I don't remember his name either. Hector sent it through a banker. Hector never comes to the United States. And so they picked up the banker at the motel and stuff and then I go in office next day and he told me it was good and everything went smooth; I didn't have no heat on me from Hector; they made it sound like it came from another big narcotics dealer here in town.

The information? The information that?

Yes arrest. And he told me they almost caught the other guy, when he come to pick up his stuff, too, but the guy seen him and split. The other guy is baby.

..... did they find any narcotics?

Twenty-nine ounces of heroin.

Heroin?

Yeah.

Okay.

Then there was --- after that made for him. And then he told me if I run into any LSD to give him a call -- big. And then he told me what the biggest one in the United States was at the time. And I told him I knew some people in California out of a big syndicate over there that handled LSD so I gave these people a call and at the time they were manufacturing some but they didn't have none and he told me he would give me a call just as soon as he had. So, at about a week later I had a phone call from this person and he told me the LSD was ready and did I want it still. And I told him yes, that I had a person that was still here in town that was going to buy it. (a Vance Macy) So he told me he was going to sendover with the LSD.

A man by the name of Vance Macy?

Yeah.

All right.

So I called Mr. Bob and I told him that it was going to be in tomorrow and described Vance to him and Dave said okay, let me figure out how I am going to do it and I will call you back. So he just told me to stay where I was at and and they would arrest the guy as he stepped off the airplane to meet the guy.

Where was he coming from?

From Laguna Beach, California. So I stayed at the motel and he called me later that afternoon and said that everything went smooth, that they didn't expect him. I think they picked up 14,000 *lbs of LSD*

Where did they pick this up? When he arrived here at Sky Harbor Airport?

Yes.

How long ago was that?

About six months ago. And then *Don* told me some more people that he wanted, that I knew. So I told him, okay, I would start working for him on it. In the meantime I kept having a lot of trouble with the city narcotic bureau. Everytime I'd go to do something -- they knew I was working for Mr. *Philo*.

How did they know?

They knew right after the banker got busted. Because they knew that on the heroin that come in had my name Skippy on it. And they knew that my name was on there and that I wasn't arrested and stuff so they just figured that I was working

Did Mr. *Don* tell them?

He did tell them later on. But they already knew because.....
..... come and told me, he says you are working for the feds, aren't you? And I denied it at the time. He says, well we know better than that. unless you was working. I wasn't supposed to tell them that I was working for him, so, like every time I would go somewhere to do something or something it was like the city was there. So then I moved to Tucson to get away from 'em. So that it when we got arrested up there at that house for that marijuana deal. Me and Jerry got arrested up in Tucson.

How long ago was that?

Well, it was about five months ago.

What happened -- you were arrested -- what was the outcome?

I was arrested and that's when they revoked my bond and I had all that trouble getting a bond. So when I got out I went to Mr. *Don* and he was telling me that I was in a lot of trouble now and if I got caught -- this and that -- and I told him, hey, I told you I couldn't bust people if I couldn't get around narcotics, I told you I wouldn't get around heroin or And he says, okay, I'm going to call my boss. So he called his boss up in Denver and explained it to him and asked me if he still wanted me to work for him and he says, yes. And at the time I told him I says well, I heard that the city, if they found me guilty on my charge up in Kingman, that they were going to sock it to me. And they weren't going

to give me appeal bond and they weren't going to do ^{this} here -- they were going up to talk to the judges ahead of time and everything and weren't going to give me bond. And Art told me that's a bunch of boloney. He says if you are found guilty up there, we will get you out. He says we aren't going to let you go to the penitentiary. He says we'll get you out -- they can't prove and at the time he thought he could. He says they can't put somebody up there when they have done as much for us as you have. So he said, we still want to get Hector. Hector Bureese.

Where is Hector Bureese out of?

Nogales.

Nogales, New Mexico?

Nogales, Old Mexico.

Old Mexico. But he said we still want to get Hector Bureese?

We still want to get him. He says, can you make a phone call to him and order some stuff. And I told him I says well, I don't know if he'll send it to me, he might be scared of it. And he says, I want something big. He says that's all he needs, something that'll be big. I called Hector, I says, Hector, that bust cost me a whole bunch of money, I says I got a guy here that wants to buy a whole bunch of heroin. I says I can turn it to him overnight, I says so I can bring you down the money I owe you. So we talked on the phone and he says, okay, but I haven't got no one to bring into Phoenix. And I told him, well, I'll send my brother down to Nogales on this side and you bring it over for him and give it to him. He says, okay, he says give me a call as soon as you get here. So I talked to Mr. ~~and~~ and, the guy that runs the narcotic and dangerous drugs, and he was going to act as my brother. He resembles me a little bit. So he went to the apartment and he called Hector and said that he was there and they delivered over to the motel
 --- Hector's wife delivered 43 ounces of heroin -- Hector's wife and mother.

.....?

X Yeah, it was a million dollars worth which you guys had in the paper.

A million dollars wholesale or retail?

Retail And Mr. ~~Carl~~ arrested Hector's wife and Hector's mother.

How did get in on it -- was he there, too?

Yeah.

The wife and mother brought it over the border?

Yes.

Good.

And -- so then Art told me, he says that's good, we are going to draw up an indictment on Hector now. That the Mexican and the American government passed ~~have~~ an agreement that if there is an indictment on ^{some} ~~any~~ body here in the United States they would arrest him over there. So he got me to sign the indictment against Hector and again I asked him, I says, look I can't afford to go to jail. Hector spent eight years up in the Arizona penitentiary. And he says, no, you don't have nothing to worry about, you won't go to jail. Okay, so I signed the indictment and then he wanted me to testify against Hector's wife, and I said you know this is going to really put me on the spot, this is going to come out in the paper. He says, well, Hector and everybody knows you are working by now anyhow and says it won't matter. So I went up there and I go to Tucson on subpoena. And I just wait there. Hector's wife didn't show up, she skipped bond and went back to Mexico, but her Mother did and I testified in that case.

Did they get a conviction?

Yes.

.....?

I something like that. And then Mr. got a promotion for all the cases he got -- he got a promotion from Washington, D.C.

How long ago was that?

Two months ago.

~~Where~~ Where is he out of, Phoenix?

Yeah, he was out of Phoenix, he was head of the Phoenix ...

Where is he now, do you know?

He is the head guy in L.A. now. He become district director, of the

narcotics over there. He kinda got a big promotion. So then he told me, he says how about them over in L.A.

About what?

....., the guy that brought all the LSD and

They are tied up in the brotherhood. He says, I would like to get him. And I says, well, I will go over and find out where the lands at, and everything. I says I told you I promised you when I started I would do everything you asked me. I says said you would. He says, everything is done. I never did get this in writing. My lawyer knew by this time I was working for him. He told me, he says you better get this in writing.

Who is your lawyer?

Henry ^{Florence} He says you better get this in writing. So -- I went over to L.A.

Did you ever in writing?

No, I took their word for it.

Let me ask you a question at this point. How much were you paid as an informer? Did he pay you?

No, he just promised me I would never go to jail.

Then why did you become an informer? Why?

I got fed up with narcotics and seeing kids strung out and everything. I told him I would do my best to clean it up as much as I could. I knew almost everybody in Phoenix.

Do you know narcotics through Phoenix and Mexico?

I've heard his name. I never knew him personally he set me on fire firebug

How do you know that. Did you see him?

No, he was the only person in my cell and I was asleep at the time. And he was telling me that he lit somebody on fire in Mesa.

Do you know?

Some guy. And I didn't pay any attention to it. I talked to him all night long, early that night, you know, just bull-~~in~~ in' and stuff.

How long was he your cell mate?

Two days.

Did you ask for a cell mate?

No. They put you in a cell ,..... two-man cells.

Did you specifically ask not to have a cell mate?

I didn't. My attorney told them just to keep me away from anybody that was -- ah -- I think when they booked me in here because there was a contract out on me.

Tell us about contract. What do you mean there was a contract out for you?

Well, there was --- first of all, it was when I was in the Kingman court room and Officer Todd and Dietrich told me -- they were laughing -- they were saying, if we get a conviction we're going to send you to the Arizona penitentiary, he says, and there you are going to be dead. He says, Hector has a \$25,000 contract out for you, and he says, and Todd says and if you don't believe me, he says if you should beat this case, he says come down to the office and I'll and I'll run you tapes.

Hector Bureese?

Yeah. Todd says he would run tapes state narcotic bureau. He says I'll run tapes of people that said there was a contract out for you, that know Hector personally.

What were they laughing about?

They were laughing because they -- if they got a conviction they were going to put me in the penitentiary. Todd told me, he says you are fighting for your life here, that's what he told me.

And he thought that was funny?

Yeah, he thought it was funny. And he told me there was a \$25,000 contract out, and he says if you don't believe me I got the tapes down at the office And then I went over to L.A. to testify in a big lab case over there and I was brought back to Kingman and I don't know what happened in Kingman but a ^{STATE} ~~agent~~ narcotics officer came up there and told one

of the guys that there was a \$75,000 contract out against me then and they were going to try to do something up in Kingman while I was in Kingman jail. And so I was talking to my wife visiting hours and they shot in there real fast and they told me I had to leave -- they were going to transfer me right now. And I didn't know why and they said they were sending me to Florence, Arizona.

When was this, roughly. One month, two months?

No, last Wednesday. Then after he put me in the car and everything I told my wife they were taking me to Florence and to get down here and see my attorney and try and keep me out. And then after we got in the car he says, the police officer, he says we are going to stop your wife, he says we are taking you to Phoenix. He says, but I didn't want nobody back there at the jail to know it. He says somebody has tried to get to you or something -- they tried to get to me there or something.

Who said that?

The officer -- the one that brought me down here.

What is his name?

I don't know two officers brought me down here.

Did one of the two officers tell you this or two officers? How many officers told you this?

Both of them told me the contract was out for me. Okay, anyhow -----

Do you believe that there is a contract out?

Definitely. And, so anyhow after they got me in the car they told me they was bringing me to Phoenix but they didn't want anyone to know it. So then we started down to here and something happened -- anyhow they pulled some car over -- somebody started following us and they pulled the car oversheriff's dept-they got it right out of town.

How did he know?

It was on their radio and everything. Everybody knew when I got there that they had done this here. And so anyhow they just brought me on down to here. And at the time these people didn't know I was supposed to be in a cell by myself -- away from -- they were putting me on the fourth floor and I told them no, can I call my attorney, I said I was supposed to be put

on the second floor and the guy downstairs says, well, no one told us anything about it.

Second floor -- is that segregation?

..... So the guy says, no problem, he says, if you don't want to be with the other guys we won't put you on the fourth floor.

..... the one that took you in?

No, the guy downstairs, the one that booked me in, he says no problem, we'll put you on the second floor, you don't have to call your attorney. And then I told him there's supposed to be a \$75,000 contract out on me, and then the officer that brought me down here said yeah. And so, anyhow they took me up to the second floor and put me in ----

Put you in a cell?

Yeah.

Was there anybody in the cell when they put you in?

Yeah, this kid.

He was already there?

You didn't ask for a cell mate?

No --- they tried to give me a cell by myself when I got here but they didn't have one so he looked through all of his charts and everything and I guess -- they put me in with someone that was a misdemeanor -- this guy was only a misdemeanor.

Let me get this right now. He tried to give you a cell alone, right? Had you asked for that cell alone or did he? Did you say I want a cell by myself?

I told him that I was supposed to be kept away from the other prisoners. He knew it, one of the other officers told him. He couldn't put me alone because he didn't have a cell to put me in by myself. So he looked through his papers and the best one he could put me in was this guy --- it was just a misdemeanor -- that was all he was in here on. He had a from California but he had a misdemeanor.

But you told me earlier in Mesa he burned a person.

Well, earlier --- they told me, they says he's a possible fire bug.

Who's they?

The police officer when they put me in the cell, he says watch.

Okay.

So we went up there and I started joking around with the guy. We just started talking and we started joking around. We just started talking and everything and I told him that --- and he started kidding around, and he says I didn't do that up in Mesa like they said. And I says, I bet you didn't. And I just thought --- I started joking around and we started talking and everything and then the second day ---

..... the Mesa jail?

Mesa or Tempe, I'm not sure which jail.

The one he burned was a prisoner?

A drunk that was in there.

..... do you know?

No, I don't expect the guy got burned. He just --- his clothes --- he put some toilet paper on the guy and lit the toilet paper. He told me he says, I really done that guy in Mesa, but he says he was an old wino and come in there and he was drunk and he was snoring and there was no excitement. He says, so I threw some toilet paper on him, he says, and lit the toilet paper.

I wonder how he got matches here?

The guy next door in the next cell.

Where, in Mesa?

Here.

Over here? How do you know this?

.....

How do you know he got matches from the prisoner in the next cell?

Because he ran out of matches.

He had them before you went to sleep?

Earlier that morning --- earlier that day he ran out of matches and he was trying to get some matches to light a cigarette.

..... trying to get matches?

Well, he asked the trusty for a pack of cigarettes and he told him in

a little while and then he hollered to the guy next door and asked him for some matches and the guy gave him a book and said he could keep them. And the trusty brought him a book of matches, too, and me and him set up and talked for a long time that night and it must have been --- it was late that night before I went --- he went to sleep first and then I went to sleep.

About what time?

I'm not sure of the time.

About midnight?

Yeah, about midnight.

You went to sleep about midnight?

No, he did, and I read some comic books and stuff like that there and he kept jumping up, he talks in his sleep and he'd keep jumping up and everything and finally I went on to sleep and the next thing I knew I felt a tingling and --- I'm pretty tall --- instead of laying on my back in a bed I lay sideways cause I'm over six foot and the beds are six foot, so I was laying sideways there and I felt this tingling like when your leg goes to sleep or something and then you stand up and you know how the blood tingles. Okay, and then I went to turn over --- and when I turn over I wake up because I have to turn completely over. And I woke up and then I felt pain. I didn't know what kind of pain it was, I just felt pain. So I jumped up real fast and then I seen the flames. And I jumped up and I ran from one end of the room and then I ran back to the other end of the room and then I remembered the shower -- I was panicked -- and to me it felt that my whole body was on fire. So I jumped in the shower and I hit the button. And the water was running on my back -- I didn't know where the fire -- I was hurting by that time --- it was just running on my back and I hollered at them and told him to grab something or something. Anyhow, he grabbed a sheet --- the water put this side out, this side here was burning a little bit still and I was hitting it with my hand to --- and then he hit it with the sheet.

.....?

Yeah, with the sheet. And then it was out and I asked, I says what the hell, was you smoking or something? He told me, no, I wasn't smoking. And I told him, I says this couldn't have happened, you know, just

happened, and he told me the guard done it. Well, its ridiculous. He said the guard must have done it when he walked by.

Well, what happened, did the guard come by?

Yeah. The guard heard me yelling --- he was on his rounds at the time -- and he heard me yelling and he come back there and wanted to see the burns and stuff.

.....?

No. So I showed him where I was burned and stuff and at the time it didn't look like it was real bad because it just happened. And so I was just setting there. I took off my clothes because they were all wet and I was just setting there. And then blisters started to come.

Was cell?

Yeah. And then I asked him, I says, was you smoking or something. I did tell him that. I says were you smoking? I says dropped your cigarette or something? He says no, I wasn't smoking, I was asleep. And that's when he started telling me the guard must have done it.

..... the physical set-up of the cell. What is the cell -- six by eight feet roughly?

Ten by ten or something like that.

I haven't seen the cell yet but is it possible --- I'm just wondering about the physical lay-out of the cell --- would it have been possible for anyone to reach you with a match other than a cell mate? In other words, figure it out?

Here's the bars,..... bars, and here's my bed. I was laying^{at this end} --- the end of the bed is right here up against the bars.

Could anyone have reached you with a match except your cell mate?

Yeah, the guy next door could have reached around. They don't have trusties and it wasn't the officer.

..... denied?

Yeah, he said "I didn't do it."

He said he didn't do it?

..... \$64,000 question --- do you attach any connection between your being burned and the contract on you?

I think M is just a nut.

Just a nut?

Yeah.

So you don't see any connection?

Not that I knew of. Besides one of the officers come back and told me that M knew my name by Skippy. But the guy next door called me Skippy a couple of times. He knew me. He called me Skippy a couple of times so that's where M could have known it. But all the guards was just calling me by Gary because they didn't want anyone to know why I was up there.

But he didn't even know who you were?

He knew I was in for narcotics -- in jail. He didn't know. He's just from California about three months, I think.

I still didn't to my question. Just in theory now -- not in fact, we're talking about theory. Could anyone have put a match on you except your cell mate? Was it physically possible to do this?

Oh yeah. All you would have to do is ---- here's the bars here and my bed was right up against the bars, you could just reach through the bars.

All right, go on. Anything else about the burning,?

Well, I was setting there and M turned over and went back to sleep and then he'd keep turning back around, he'd turn back around and he would say, didn't the doctor come yet. I told him no. He says, well, I'm going to yell real loud, I'm going to get a doctor up here, they shouldn't leave you setting here like this. And he says I'm going to get you some help. He says, that God-damned guard burnt you anyhow, he says, the least I can do is get you some help. And I but I knew if I did I'd get in worse trouble at the time, and then I didn't know I was going to have to have an operation on it either. So then the next morning they took M out and took me to the hospital.

Just to be very clear about it, you don't think there is any chance in the world???????

No. Do you have any other questions you want to ask?

How long did you stay at the hospital?

About an hour is all. And then we came back here to the county jail.

And where did you go when you came back again, the same cell?

Yeah.

Who was in the cell?

Nobody.

When you went to the hospital, where did you go. The county hospital?

County Hospital.

How many guards were with you?

Two.

Did you feel that there was?

No, nobody even knew I was going there. In fact, they sent two. They usually send one, don't they? They sent two. The officer downstairs said will be better two of you, you just better go for safety precautions.

..... stay at the hospital come back here?

I didn't need to stay at the hospital at that time. The doctor said, he says there is nothing you can ever do, he says you just gotta wrap it back up and he says come back in a couple of days and we'll pop those things, and then he says you'll have to have an operation on it. And he told the police officer, he'll have to stay here a couple of days then. And then when we was coming back I told the guy I said I can't stay there a couple of days. They've gotta take some skin off my ass or otherwise the doctor said the burn where my sock was pushed around and it made a ridge and its cut off the blood circulation and my leg will turn into gangrene and I'll lose my leg if I don't have the operation. Because I asked him well, what if I just put it off until I find out if I'll get an appeal bond or if the federal government gets me out of jail or what. And he told me, no, I would have to get it done right away.

When are you going to have it done?

I don't know yet. My wife is going to talk to a private doctor today. They told me it would be all right to get my own doctor. And I go to the Court of Appeals, I think, again tomorrow morning to try to get a bond set. that my life's in danger and everything there in Florence.

If I don't get a bond by Tuesday, then I go to Florence next Tuesday, I think. So he's going back to Tuesday and I told the guy to wait and see if I made a bond before he found out about it. If I make a bond, I'll just go to any hospital and check in and have it.

..... return to Florence?

Do I believe it? The guys in Florence didn't believe it because when the guys from Kingman took another guy down the week before and they thought it was me, the guards down at Florence, and they said they come out by the car or something and they told him, is this Brazil, and they said no, and they said they have a contract out, you know, so everybody at the penitentiary knows it, that the contract's out.

Do you believe that you won't come back from?

★ No, I won't last two weeks if I go there. I've been told and told again the city is the one that told me that the contract was out the first person. We heard the rumor, you know, that there was a contract out and then the city is the first person that told me there was a contract.

Who.....?

Todd, from the city narcotics bureau, the one that made the case against me. He told me they had the contract, he had tapes in his office that could prove it what informers had told him. Bobby Madrid (?) was the first person to tell him.

Madrid?

Madrid was the first person to tell him that there was a contract.

.....?